

Program D: TOPS Tuition Program

Program Authorization: R.S. 17:1961-1968

Program Authorization: Tuition Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) Teacher Preparatory Loan Program - R.S. 17:3042.1, TOPS Opportunity Awards - Act 1375 of 1997 Regular Session, TOPS Honors Awards - Act 1375 of 1997 Regular Session, TOPS Performance Awards - Act 1375 of 1997 Regular Session, TOPS Technical Awards - Act 1375 of 1997 Regular Session, TOPS National Guard Book Fee - Act 165 of 1998.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The mission of the TOPS Tuition Program is to financially assist any student who enrolls on a full-time basis in an eligible college or university to pursue an academic undergraduate degree, technical education certificate, diploma, or a non-academic undergraduate degree, and who meets the qualifications of the program.

The goal of the TOPS Tuition Program is to provide funds which are sufficient to cover the costs required to be paid for the coming academic year.

The TOPS Tuition Program includes the following activities:

1. TOPS Teacher Award - provides educational loans made in the amount of \$4,000 and \$6,000, dependent upon field of study. The program provides loan forgiveness to encourage individuals to teach in Louisiana.
2. TOPS Opportunity Award - replaced TAP effective 7/1/98, provides tuition for not more than 4 years or 8 semesters. Eligibility requirements include a 2.5 GPA, 16.5 core units and must obtain not less than the state ACT average.
3. TOPS Honors Award – provides tuition plus \$800 for not more than 4 years or 8 semesters. Eligibility requirements include a 3.5 GPA, 16.5 core units, and an ACT of 27.
4. TOPS Performance Award - replaces the Honor Scholarship Program effective 7/1/98, provides tuition plus \$400 for not more than 4 years or 8 semesters. Eligibility requirements include a 3.5 GPA, 16.5 core units, and an ACT of 23.
5. TOPS Technical Award - provides tuition for not more than 2 years. Eligibility requirements include a 2.5 GPA, 16.5 core units and an ACT of not less than 19.
6. TOPS National Guard Book Fee - provides \$150 per semester for the actual costs of books in lieu of tuition exemptions provided by R.S. 29:36.1 for persons serving in the La. National Guard and who qualify for the Opportunity Award.

OBJECTIVES AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Unless otherwise indicated, all objectives are to be accomplished during or by the end of FY 2001-2002. Performance indicators are made up of two parts: name and value. The indicator name describes what is being measured. The indicator value is the numeric value or level achieved within a given measurement period. For budgeting purposes, performance indicator values are shown for the prior fiscal year, the current fiscal year, and alternative funding scenarios (continuation budget level and Executive Budget recommendation level) for the ensuing fiscal year (the fiscal year of the budget document).

GENERAL PERFORMANCE INFORMATION: AVERAGE AMOUNT AWARDED - TOPS

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	PRIOR YEAR ACTUAL FY 1995-96	PRIOR YEAR ACTUAL FY 1996-97	PRIOR YEAR ACTUAL FY 1997-98	PRIOR YEAR ACTUAL FY 1998-99	PRIOR YEAR ACTUAL FY 1999-00
Opportunity	Not applicable ¹	Not applicable ¹	Not applicable ¹	\$2,102	\$2,101
Performance	Not applicable ¹	Not applicable ¹	Not applicable ¹	\$2,635	\$2,623
Honors	Not applicable ¹	Not applicable ¹	Not applicable ¹	\$3,127	\$3,149
Teachers	Not applicable ¹	Not applicable ¹	Not applicable ¹	\$3,982	\$3,910
Technical	Not applicable ¹	Not applicable ¹	\$4,382	\$552	\$681
National Guard Book Fee	Not applicable ¹	Not applicable ¹	Not applicable ¹	\$300	\$300

Explanatory Note: TOPS Teacher program was first funded in FY 1997-98. The remaining TOPS components were first funded in FY 1998-99.

GENERAL PERFORMANCE INFORMATION: TEACHER PREPARATION LOAN FUND

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	PRIOR YEAR ACTUAL FY 1995-96	PRIOR YEAR ACTUAL FY 1996-97	PRIOR YEAR ACTUAL FY 1997-98	PRIOR YEAR ACTUAL FY 1998-99	PRIOR YEAR ACTUAL FY 1999-00
Total amount awarded	\$0	\$0	\$398,757	\$398,198	\$398,885
Total number of recipients	0	0	91	100	102
Number of new awards	0	0	91	20	46
Number of renewal awards	0	0	0	80	56
Number of graduates	0	0	48	5	35
Number of graduates who have fulfilled their teaching requirement	0	0	0	0	15
Number of loans repaid in full	0	0	0	0	1
Number of loans in repayment	0	0	0	0	8

GENERAL PERFORMANCE INFORMATION: TOPS RETENTION RATES FOR SECOND YEAR

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	PRIOR YEAR ACTUAL FY 1995-96	PRIOR YEAR ACTUAL FY 1996-97	PRIOR YEAR ACTUAL FY 1997-98	PRIOR YEAR ACTUAL FY 1998-99	PRIOR YEAR ACTUAL FY 1999-00
TOPS COMPONENT ¹					
Opportunity	Not applicable ²	Not applicable ²	Not applicable ²	69.5% ³	66.0%
Performance	Not applicable ²	Not applicable ²	Not applicable ²	74.4% ³	90.3%
Honors	Not applicable ²	Not applicable ²	Not applicable ²	84.6% ³	93.6%
Teacher	Not applicable ²	Not applicable ²	Not applicable ²	87.9% ³	75.0%
Technical	Not applicable ²	Not applicable ²	Not applicable ²	36.0% ³	19.4%

¹ The National Guard Book Fee component is not presented. Since this is only a fee for books, a retention rate is irrelevant.

² TOPS Teachers began 7/1/1997. The remaining TOPS awards began 7/1//1998

³ The rates shown reflect the percentage of freshmen who maintained their TOPS eligibility as sophomores.

1. (KEY) To identify qualified candidates and provide 100% of available funding to eligible students participating in the TOPS program.

Strategic Link: *This objective ties to OSFA Strategic Plan Objective I.2 in the Scholarship and Grant Program.*

Louisiana: Vision 2020 Link: Not applicable

Children's Cabinet Link: Not applicable

Other Link(s): This objective is associated with the TOPS Fund (tobacco settlement funds) which provides funding for the Tuition Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS)

L E V E L	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR NAME	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR VALUES					
		YEAREND PERFORMANCE STANDARD FY 1999-2000	ACTUAL YEAREND PERFORMANCE FY 1999-2000	ACT 11 PERFORMANCE STANDARD FY 2000-2001	EXISTING PERFORMANCE STANDARD FY 2000-2001	AT CONTINUATION BUDGET LEVEL FY 2001-2002	AT RECOMMENDED BUDGET LEVEL FY 2001-2002
K	Total amount awarded - TOPS program	\$81,840,737	\$66,907,996	\$84,404,944	\$86,000,000 ¹	\$107,688,801	\$102,805,536 ²
K	Total number of recipients - TOPS program	33,281	28,881	36,194	34,301 ¹	41,360	41,326 ³

¹ Existing performance standard reflects and August 15th adjustment due to two amendments in Act 11 which added \$6,000,000 million in funding to cover the cost an increase in University tuition., and an amendment which reduced the TOPS appropriation by \$4,404,944.

² Excludes \$100,000 Statutory Dedication for the TOPS Teachers program, which may not be available for use in FY 2001-2002.

³ Recommended Budget level does not reflect the impact of the Executive Budget Recommendation which reduced the TOPS program by \$3.6 million.

2.(KEY) To process and award 95% of all graduates of the current academic year qualifying for TOPS scholarships within 60 days from the deadline.

Strategic Link: *This objective ties to OSFA Strategic Plan Objective I.2 in the Scholarship and Grant Program.*

Louisiana: *Vision 2020 Link:* Not provided

Children's Cabinet Link: Not provided

Other Link(s): This objective is associated with the TOPS Fund (tobacco settlement funds) which provides funding for the Tuition Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS).

Explanatory Note : This objective is similar to Objective 1 in Program C from the FY 2000-2001 Operational Plan. The revised agency Strategic Plan restated the objective to ones which were more appropriate. Objective 1 from Program C, FY 2000-2001 Operational Plan was separated into 2 objectives for FY 2001-2002.

L E V E L	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR NAME	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR VALUES					
		YEAREND PERFORMANCE STANDARD	ACTUAL YEAREND PERFORMANCE	ACT 11 PERFORMANCE STANDARD	EXISTING PERFORMANCE STANDARD	AT CONTINUATION BUDGET LEVEL	AT RECOMMENDED BUDGET LEVEL
		FY 1999-2000	FY 1999-2000	FY 2000-2001	FY 2000-2001	FY 2001-2002	FY 2001-2002
S	Number of applicants meeting minimal requirements ¹	Not applicable ³	14,413	Not applicable ³	14,968 ⁴	15,400	15,400
S	Number of applicants receiving notice of award ²	Not applicable ³	14,181	Not applicable ³	15,661 ⁴	14,630	14,630
K	Percent of applicants meeting minimal requirements, processed and notified within 60 days	Not applicable ³	98%	Not applicable ³	96% ⁴	95%	95%

¹ Applicants must meet at a minimum the following requirements: (1) Application must be received before July 1. ; (2) Achieve an ACT score greater than 18; (3) Date of the last ACT test must occur prior July 1.

² Notice of award is a written notification sent to all qualified applicants meeting all requirements for the level of the award for which they have qualified.

³ New indicators added for FY 2001-2002, therefore the indicator has no yearend performance standard for FY 1999-2000, or an Act 11 Performance Standard for FY 2000-2001

⁴ The Existing Performance Standard reflects an estimate an not a standard.

3. (SUPPORTING) To process 100% of the students applying for renewal of a scholarship within 60 days of receiving accurate data from postsecondary institutions.

Strategic Link: *This objective ties to OSFA Strategic ties to OSFA Strategic Plan Goal I in the Scholarship and Grant Program.*

Louisiana: *Vision 2020 Link* : Not applicable

Children's Cabinet Link: Not applicable

Other Link(s): This objective is associated with the TOPS Fund (tobacco settlement funds) which provides funding for the Tuition Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS).

Explanatory Note : This objective is similar to Objective 1 in Program C from the FY 2000-2001 Operational Plan. The revised Agency Strategic Plan restated the objective to ones which were more appropriate. Objective 1 from Program C, FY 2000-2001 Operational Plan was separated into 2 objectives for FY 2001-2002.

L E V E L	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR NAME	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR VALUES					
		YEAREND PERFORMANCE STANDARD FY 1999-2000	ACTUAL YEAREND PERFORMANCE FY 1999-2000	ACT 11 PERFORMANCE STANDARD FY 2000-2001	EXISTING PERFORMANCE STANDARD FY 2000-2001	AT CONTINUATION BUDGET LEVEL FY 2001-2002	AT RECOMMENDED BUDGET LEVEL FY 2001-2002
S	Renewal determinations made within 60 days of receiving accurate information from postsecondary institutions ¹	Not applicable ²	100%	96%	96%	100%	100%
S	Percentage of renewal determinations made within 60 days ³	Not applicable ²	33,925	49,369	49,369	41,190	41,190

¹ For FY 20001-2002 the indicator name was changed. The indicator previously appeared as the "Percent of scholarships and grants awarded within 60 days of the final deadline". The indicator name was changed to reflect only TOPS renewals, because TOPS is the largest scholarship program administered by OSFA. The renewal process of the other scholarship and grant programs differ from program to program. Also, deadline dates are not consistent between programs, making it extremely difficult to track this data.

² New indicators added for FY 2000-2001 , therefore the indicator has no yearend performance standard for FY 1999-2000.

³ For FY 2001-2002 , the indicator name was changed. The indicator previously appeared as the "Number of grants and scholarships awarded within 60 days of the final deadline. The indicator name was changed to reflect only TOPS renewals, because TOPS is the largest scholarship program administered by OSFA. The renewal process of the other scholarship and grant programs differ from program to program. Also, deadline dates are not consistent between programs, making it extremely difficult to track this data.

RESOURCE ALLOCATION FOR THE PROGRAM

	ACTUAL 1999 - 2000	ACT 11 2000 - 2001	EXISTING 2000 - 2001	CONTINUATION 2001 - 2002	RECOMMENDED 2001 - 2002	RECOMMENDED OVER/(UNDER) EXISTING
MEANS OF FINANCING:						
STATE GENERAL FUND (Direct)	\$66,965,659	\$85,300,000	\$85,300,000	\$106,288,801	\$100,961,368	\$15,661,368
STATE GENERAL FUND BY:						
Interagency Transfers	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fees & Self-gen. Revenues	0	0	0	0	0	0
Statutory Dedications	398,885	700,000	700,000	1,400,000	1,200,000	500,000
Interim Emergency Board	0	0	0	0	0	0
FEDERAL FUNDS	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL MEANS OF FINANCING	\$67,364,544	\$86,000,000	\$86,000,000	\$107,688,801	\$102,161,368	\$16,161,368
EXPENDITURES & REQUEST:						
Salaries	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other Compensation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Related Benefits	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Operating Expenses	0	0	0	0	0	0
Professional Services	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Other Charges	67,364,544	86,000,000	86,000,000	107,688,801	102,161,368	16,161,368
Total Acq. & Major Repairs	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND REQUEST	\$67,364,544	\$86,000,000	\$86,000,000	\$107,688,801	\$102,161,368	\$16,161,368
AUTHORIZED FULL-TIME EQUIVALENTS: Classified	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unclassified	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0

SOURCE OF FUNDING

This program is funded with State General Fund and Statutory Dedications. The Statutory Dedications are from the Millennium Trust – TOPS Fund and the Teacher Preparatory Loan Fund. (Per R.S. 39:32B. (8), see table below for a listing of expenditures out of each statutory dedicated fund.)

	ACTUAL 1999- 2000	ACT 11 2000 - 2001	EXISTING 2000 - 2001	CONTINUATION 2001 - 2002	RECOMMENDED 2001 - 2002	RECOMMENDED OVER/(UNDER) EXISTING
Teacher Preparation Loan Fund	\$398,885	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$0	\$100,000	(\$300,000)
TOPS Fund	\$0	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$1,400,000	\$1,100,000	\$800,000

ANALYSIS OF RECOMMENDATION

GENERAL FUND	TOTAL	T.O.	DESCRIPTION
\$85,300,000	\$86,000,000	0	ACT 11 FISCAL YEAR 2000-2001
			BA-7 TRANSACTIONS:
\$0	\$0	0	None
\$85,300,000	\$86,000,000	0	EXISTING OPERATING BUDGET – December 15, 2000
\$15,361,368	\$16,161,368	0	Workload Adjustment - Increased participation in the TOPS Program
\$300,000	\$0	0	Means of Financing Substitution - replace Statutory Dedication with General Fund for the Teacher Preparatory Loan Program.
\$100,961,368	\$102,161,368	0	TOTAL RECOMMENDED
\$0	\$0	0	LESS GOVERNOR'S SUPPLEMENTARY RECOMMENDATIONS
\$100,961,368	\$102,161,368	0	BASE EXECUTIVE BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2001-2002
			SUPPLEMENTARY RECOMMENDATIONS CONTINGENT ON NEW REVENUE:
\$0	\$0	0	None
\$0	\$0	0	TOTAL SUPPLEMENTARY RECOMMENDATIONS CONTINGENT ON NEW REVENUE
\$100,961,368	\$102,161,368	0	GRAND TOTAL RECOMMENDED

The total means of financing for this program is recommended at 118.8% of the existing operating budget. It represents 94.8% of the total request (\$107,668,801) for this program. A workload adjustment because of growth in the number of TOPS awards is responsible for the funding increase in this program.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

\$0 This program does not have funding for Professional Services for Fiscal Year 2001 - 2002.

\$0 TOTAL PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

OTHER CHARGES

\$102,161,368 Tuition Opportunity Program for Students - funding for student awards
\$0

\$102,161,368 SUB-TOTAL OTHER CHARGES

Interagency Transfers:

\$0 This program does not have funding for Interagency Transfers for Fiscal Year 2001 - 2002.

\$0 SUB-TOTAL INTERAGENCY TRANSFERS

\$102,161,368 TOTAL OTHER CHARGES

ACQUISITIONS AND MAJOR REPAIR

\$0 This program does not have funding for Acquisitions and Major Repairs for Fiscal Year 2001 - 2002.

\$0 TOTAL ACQUISITIONS AND MAJOR REPAIRS